

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 01986 202200Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-12 AID-05 DLOS-09 HA-05 /108 W
-----065134 202320Z /64

R 202117Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8561
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, PDIP, CI, BL
SUBJECT: BOLIVIA/CHILE BREAK: CHILEANS STAYING COOL

REF: SANTIAGO 1933

1. HURT SURPRISE CONTINUES TO CHARACTERIZE THE CHILE REACTION TO THE BOLIVIAN DECISION TO BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THE CHILEAN LINE, AS FIXED IN THE GOC COMMUNIQUE RELEASED MARCH 17 (REFTEL), IS THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE CONTINUING IN GOOD FAITH AND AT A PACE LARGELY DETERMINED BY LA PAZ. THIS HAS BEEN EMBELLISHED BY VARIOUS GOC SPOKES-

MEN OVER THE WEEKEND AND REFLECTED IN EDITORIAL OPINION. ALTHOUGH COVERAGE HAS BEEN HEAVY, THE GENERAL TONE HAS BEEN RESTRAINED.

2. THE CHILEANS CREDIT BOLIVIAN ELECTORAL POLITICS FOR THE BREAK. HOWEVER, THE LOCAL PRESS HAS PLAYED UP INTERVIEWS WITH PRESIDENT BANZER AND OFFICIAL CANDIDATE PEREDA IN WHICH BANZER IS QUOTED AS
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PAGE 02 SANTIA 01986 202200Z

SAYING THERE WERE NO TIME LIMITS ON THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE PEREDA INTERVIEW, WHICH APPEARED IN LAST WEEK'S "COSAS" MAGAZINE, HAS THE GENERAL APPARENTLY OPPOSING A BREAK IN RELATIONS, A MEASURE "WHICH WOULD CUT OFF DIALOGUE".

3. FOR MANY CHILEANS, THE PERUVIANS CAUSED THE PROBLEM BY REFUSING TO ACCEPT THE DECEMBER 1975 PROPOSAL. JULIO PHILIPPI,

CHILE'S RESIDENT EXPERT ON BORDER PROBLEMS, PINNED THE ROSE ON PERU IN COMMENTS QUOTED IN THE GOC'S NEWSPAPER. BUT THE CHILEANS SO FAR HAVE NOT PLAYED UP THIS ASPECT OF THE SITUATION. IN PART, THE GOC PROBABLY DOES NOT WISH TO CAST A PALL OVER THE CURRENT MEETINGS BETWEEN MINISTER OF DEFENSE BRADY AND HIS PERUVIAN COUNTERPART ALONG THE FRONTIER. THE MEETINGS ARE ANOTHER IN THE SERIES BETWEEN SENIOR MILITARY OFFICIALS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES DESIGNED TO EASE TENSIONS. AND THE GOC EASED ONE LOCAL IRRITATION WHEN THE PERUVIAN EMBASSY, BASED ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM LIMA, CATEGORICALLY DENIED A WIRE SERVICE REPORT CLAIMING LA PAZ HAD GIVEN LIMA ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE IMPENDING BREAK.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT BANZER HAS SENT PINOCHET A PERSONAL LETTER PRESUMABLY CLARIFYING THE GOB'S RATIONALE FOR THE BREAK. PINOCHET SAID HE WOULD CONSULT WITH THE JUNTA TODAY (MARCH 20) BEFORE COMMENTING PUBLICLY.
LANDAU

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Message Attributes

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